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United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects
New York, 27 August-7 September 2012

Report of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects

I. Introduction

1. At its sixty-sixth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 66/47, by which it decided that, pursuant to resolution 65/64, the second conference to review progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects would be held in New York from 27 August to 7 September 2012; and that the preparatory committee for the review conference would be convened in New York from 19 to 23 March 2012. In addition, the Assembly invited States, at the second review conference, to review progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action, and, subject to the agenda of the conference to be agreed by the preparatory committee, encouraged them to explore ways to strengthen its implementation, including consideration of the possibility of convening a further open-ended meeting of governmental experts.

II. Organizational matters

A. Opening and duration of the session and list of participants

2. The Preparatory Committee held its session at United Nations Headquarters from 19 to 23 March 2012. The session was opened by the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, who also made a statement. During the session, the Preparatory Committee held a total of 10 formal meetings.

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3. The Chief of the Disarmament and Peace Affairs Branch in the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management served as Secretary of the Preparatory Committee.

4. The list of participants is contained in document A/CONF.192/2012/PC/INF/2; and the list of non-governmental organizations is contained in document A/CONF.192/2012/PC/INF/1.

B. Election of officers

5. The Preparatory Committee elected the following officers:

Chair:

U. Joy Ogwu (Nigeria)

Vice-Chairs:

Brazil
Czech Republic
Germany
Guyana
Hungary
Indonesia
Japan
Kenya
Madagascar
New Zealand
Peru
Romania

C. Adoption of the agenda

6. At its 1st meeting, on 19 March, the Preparatory Committee adopted its agenda as contained in document A/CONF.192/2012/PC/L.1.

D. Adoption of the rules of procedure

7. At its 1st meeting, on 19 March, the Preparatory Committee decided to follow the rules of procedure of the United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects as contained in document A/CONF.192/2006/RC/5.

E. Documentation

8. The documents of the Preparatory Committee are listed in the annex to the present report.

9. The Preparatory Committee had also before it working papers submitted by the Non-Aligned Movement (A/CONF.192/2012/PC/CRP.8), the European Union

(A/CONF.192/2012/PC/CRP.9), Germany (A/CONF.192/2012/PC/CRP.10) and Japan (A/CONF.192/2012/PC/CRP.11).

10. At the 8th meeting, on 22 March, a Chair's summary was circulated (A/CONF.192/2012/PC/CRP.13). At the 9th and 10th meetings, on 23 March, delegations expressed their general views regarding the status of the Chair summary. The Chair's summary, prepared under her own responsibility, reflects her interpretation of the main points that were discussed during the meetings of the Committee. It does not represent a full record of all issues discussed during the Preparatory Committee, nor should it be seen as reflecting the consensus view of States on any specific points covered in it. The issues summarized by the Chair could be further discussed, along with other documents submitted by Member States, during the informal consultations prior to the Review Conference, without prejudice to the position of any delegation and the right of any State to put forward any proposals in future and during the Review Conference, and does not prejudge the outcome document of the Review Conference.

III. Proceedings of the session

11. At its 1st to 6th meetings, from 19 to 21 March, the Preparatory Committee held a thematic debate on progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects and of the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons, in which 58 participating States and an observer delivered statements.

12. The Preparatory Committee also heard statements made by representatives of five intergovernmental organizations at its 5th and 6th meetings, on 21 March.

13. At the 6th meeting, on 21 March, statements by representatives of six non-governmental organizations were heard.

14. At its 7th to 10th meetings, on 22 and 23 March, the Preparatory Committee considered agenda item 10, entitled "Recommendations to the Conference on all relevant matters, including the draft agenda, draft rules of procedure, draft final documents, background documentation and nominations for President and Secretary-General of the Conference".

IV. Adoption of the report of the Preparatory Committee

15. At the 10th meeting, on 23 March, the Chair introduced the revised draft report of the Preparatory Committee as contained in conference room paper A/CONF.192/2012/PC/CRP.12/Rev.1 in English only.

16. At the same meeting, the Preparatory Committee adopted its report.

V. Decisions of the Preparatory Committee

17. At its 10th meeting, on 23 March, the Preparatory Committee adopted the following decisions:

Decision I
Nomination of the President of the Conference

The Preparatory Committee, taking into account General Assembly resolution 66/47, in which the Assembly welcomed the early designation of Nigeria as the Chair of the second Review Conference and its Preparatory Committee, decides to unanimously recommend the candidacy of U. Joy Ogwu of Nigeria, the Chair of the Preparatory Committee, for the presidency of the Conference.

The Preparatory Committee requests the President-designate to undertake informal consultations, including open-ended informal consultations, if required, in the period before the Conference.

Decision II
Nomination of the Secretary-General of the Conference

The Preparatory Committee decides to invite the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in consultation with Member States, to nominate an official to act as Secretary-General of the Conference.

Decision III
Background documentation of the Conference

The Preparatory Committee decides to request the United Nations Secretariat to make available the following background documents for the Review Conference:

(a) Report of the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, New York, 9-20 July 2001 (A/CONF.192/15);

(b) Documents establishing the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons (A/60/88 and Corr.2, annex; see also General Assembly decision 60/519);

(c) Reports of the Third and Fourth Biennial Meetings of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (A/CONF.192/BMS/2008/3 and A/CONF.192/BMS/2010/3);

(d) Report of the Open-ended Meeting of Governmental Experts on the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (A/CONF.192/MGE/2011/1);

(e) Report of the Secretary-General containing Member States' views on the progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action, 10 years following its adoption, pursuant to paragraph 29 of General Assembly resolution 65/64 (to be issued);

(f) Report of the Group of Governmental Experts established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 60/81 to consider further steps to enhance international

cooperation in preventing, combating and eradicating illicit brokering in small arms and light weapons (A/62/163);

(g) Letter dated 14 July 2011 from the Permanent Representative of New Zealand to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/66/157);[1]

(h) Working papers submitted by the participating States to the Review Conference.

VI. Recommendations of the Preparatory Committee to the Conference

18. At its 10th meeting, on 23 March, the Preparatory Committee submitted the following recommendations to the Review Conference:

Recommendation I
Provisional agenda of the Conference

The Preparatory Committee decides to recommend to the United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects the provisional agenda as follows:

Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the Conference by the Secretary-General of the United Nations.
2. Election of the President.
3. Statement by the President.
4. Address by the President of the General Assembly.
5. Address by the Secretary-General of the United Nations.
6. Adoption of the rules of procedure.
7. Adoption of the agenda.
8. Organization of work.
9. Election of officers other than the President.

[1] The summary annexed to the letter was prepared by the Chair of the Open-ended Meeting of Governmental Experts on the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (New York, 9-13 May 2011) under his own responsibility and reflected his interpretation of the main points under discussion. It does not seek to provide a full record of discussions, nor should it be seen as reflecting the consensus view of States.

10. Credentials of representatives to the Conference:

    (a) Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee;

    (b) Report of the Credentials Committee.

11. Confirmation of the Secretary-General of the Conference.

12. General exchange of views.

13. Statements by intergovernmental organizations.

14. Statements by non-governmental organizations.

15. Adoption of the final documents of the Conference.

16. Adoption of the report of the Conference to the General Assembly.

Recommendation II
Other officers of the Conference

The Preparatory Committee decides to recommend that the United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects re-elect 14 Vice-Chairs of the Preparatory Committee, comprising two representatives of the African States and three of each of the other regional groups, as its Vice-Presidents.

The rules of procedure as contained in document A/CONF.192/2006/RC/5 shall be amended accordingly.

Recommendation III
Draft provisional rules of procedure of the Conference

The Preparatory Committee decides to recommend for adoption by the United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects the rules of procedure as contained in document A/CONF.192/2006/RC/5, as amended.

Annex

List of documents

A/CONF.192/2012/PC/L.1	Draft provisional agenda
A/CONF.192/2012/PC/L.2	Draft report
A/CONF.192/2012/PC/L.3	Draft provisional agenda of the Conference
A/CONF.192/2012/PC/L.4	Draft provisional rules of procedure of the Conference
A/CONF.192/2012/PC/INF/1	List of non-governmental organizations
A/CONF.192/2012/PC/INF/2	List of participants
A/CONF.192/2012/PC/CRP.1	Provisional programme of work
A/CONF.192/2012/PC/CRP.12 and Rev.1	Revised draft report of the Preparatory Committee